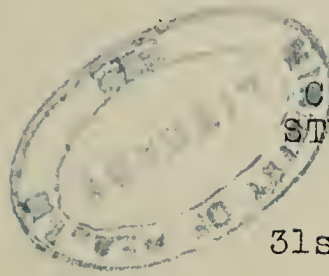


COPY.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

31st March, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sturminster Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1946.

The Report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

The year under review can be considered to have been a healthy year as far as your district is concerned. There was a little infectious disease and, although many people were living under adverse housing conditions, no ascertainable effect on the health of the population has been evident.

A comprehensive factual Report was submitted last year and in this year's report facts and comments are limited to matters not previously referred to.

The excellent progress made in the provision of new houses does, I feel, call for special comment. This has done much to relieve the worst cases of persons living under overcrowded and insanitary conditions and, even if many people still remain inadequately housed in the district, the good progress so far made gives them reasonable hope that their turn for better accommodation is not too far distant.

I am indebted to Mr. Dean, your Sanitary Inspector, for his ready help and co-operation during the year and for his assistance in preparing this Report, and to my clerk, Mrs. Bourne, for her efficient services.

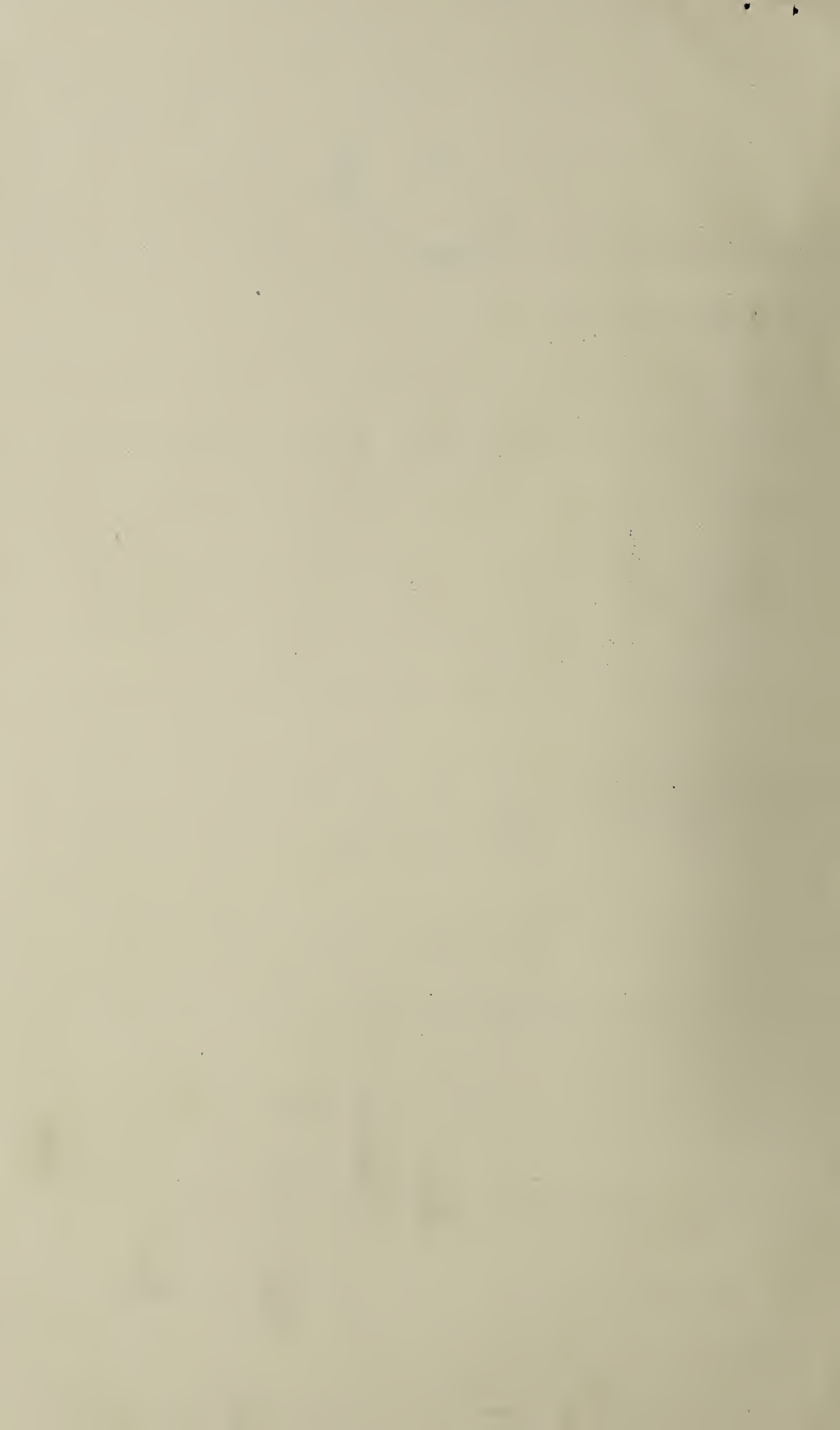
I must also thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Ken Pearson

Medical Officer of Health.



THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

for the year

1 9 4 6.

1. STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH.

Until I resumed duties as your Medical Officer of Health on 1st April, 1946, Dr. G. Bodley Scott was your temporary Medical Officer.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

F. Hodson, M.S.I.A., was appointed as Additional Sanitary Inspector on 1st February, 1946.

This appointment enabled satisfactory progress being made in the Housing Survey, and compensated for the loss to Sanitary work by the additional duties as Licensing Officer carried out by the Senior Inspector.

2. STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

Area	-	45,000 acres.
Rateable Value	-	£36,680
Production of a penny rate		£157. 8s. 6d.

Vital Statistics.

These are not yet available. They will be submitted as an addendum to this report on receipt from the Registrar General.

3. WATER SUPPLIES.

No serious shortage of water was experienced during the year. All public supplies were efficiently chlorinated throughout the year.

The Council's supplies are all derived from shallow springs, and are liable to occasional bacteriological contamination. Monthly examination has been carried out throughout the year, and the condition of the water has at no time during the year been less than reasonably satisfactory before chlorination.

Three Parishes, Stoke Wake, Woolland and Glanvilles Wootton are still dependent on small unchlorinated private supplies of varying quality.

It is estimated that an additional 300,000 gallons of water per day will be required to meet future requirements, particularly agricultural. To meet this need a trial borehole was being sunk at Alton Pancras, and schemes of developments to provide additional trunk mains and reservoirs have been proposed.

Present Methods of Supply.

Supplies of water to houses are as follows, the figures given are approximate:-

From Council Mains	- Individual Supply	2.012
" " "	- by Standpipe	226
" " "	- not to 'inside the house'	488
From Private piped Supply		80
From Wells or Springs		179

Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945 requires that a house shall have a piped supply into the house.

There are, therefore, approximately 650 houses which fail to comply with the law in this respect. It can also be assumed that these houses have no sinks either.

When labour and materials are available attention will have to be given to this matter to obtain conformity with the law.

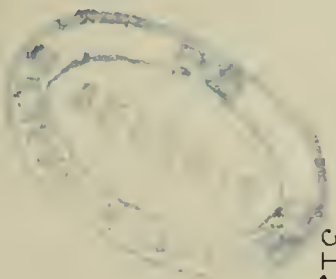
ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE
STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR - 1946.

VITAL STATISTICS (CIVILIAN).

POPULATION	-	(Registrar General's Estimate)	-	8,437		
LIVE BIRTHS	-	<u>Total</u> 129	<u>Male</u> 69	<u>Female</u> 60	} Rate per 1,000 resident pop: =	Comparative figures for (a) North Dorset (b) England & Wales 15.2 15.8 19.1
		Legitimate	65	54		
		Illegitimate	4	6		
STILLBIRTHS	-	3	3	-	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: =	0.3 0.53 0.53
DEATHS	-	109	63	46	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: =	12.9 13.1 21.5
Deaths from Maternal Causes - Nil						
" in Infants under one year -				3	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births =	23.2 31.6 43.
" from preventable disease -				Nil		
" from road traffic accidents				1		

N.F. Pearson

Medical Officer of Health.



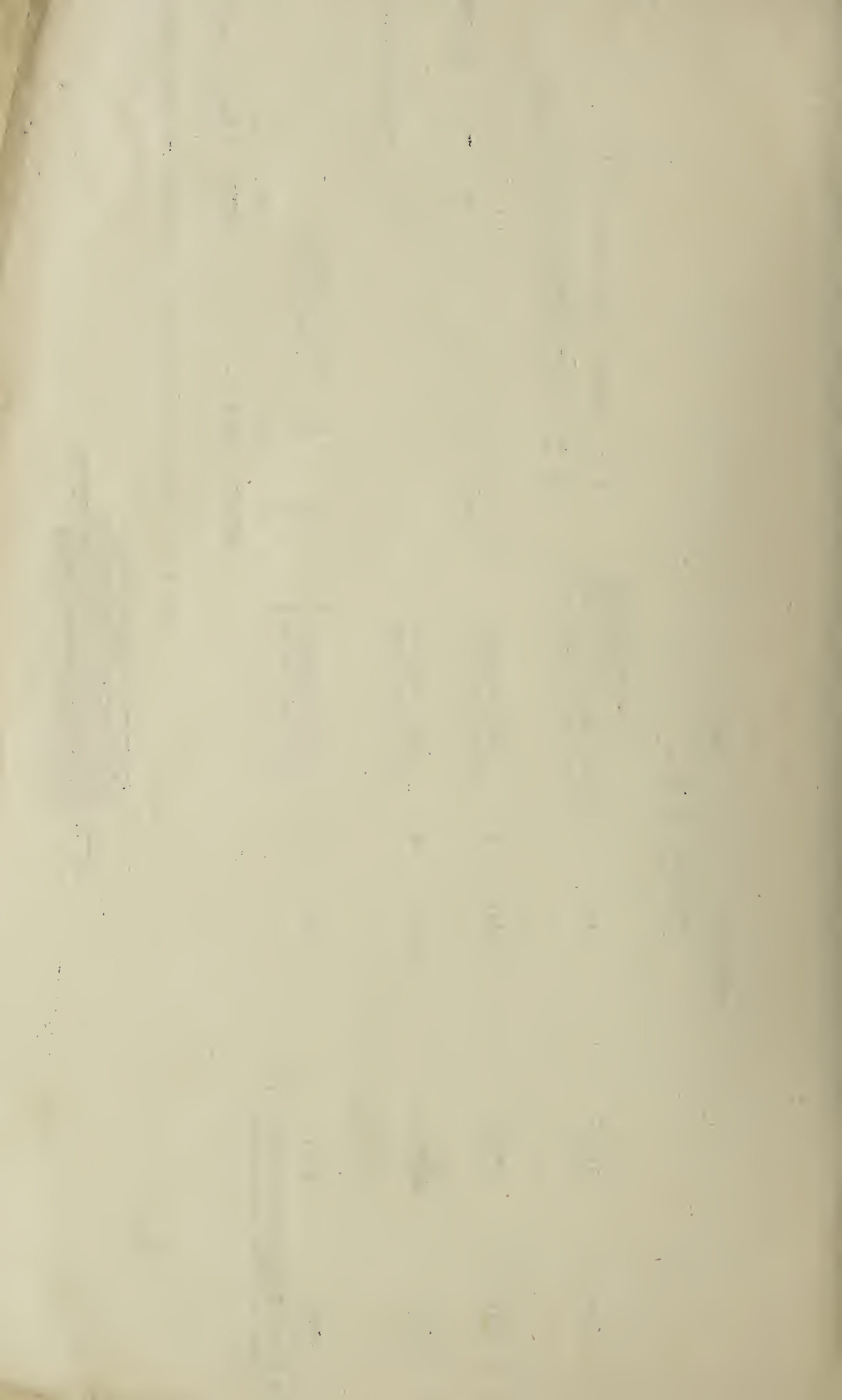
ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE
SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR - 1946.

POPULATION - (Registrar General's Estimate)	-	3,398			
LIVE BIRTHS - <u>Total</u>	48				
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
		26	22		
)	
)	
Legitimate	22		22		
Illegitimate	4		-		
				} Rate per 1,000	
				resident pop:	= 14.1
STILLBIRTHS -	1	-	1		
				Rate per 1,000	
				resident pop:	= 0.29
					0.53
					0.53
DEATHS -	42	19	23		
				Rate per 1,000	
				resident pop:	= 12.0
					13.1
					11.5
Deaths from Maternal Causes	-	-	Nil		
" in Infants under one year	-	-	2		
" from preventable disease	-	-	4		
				Infantile Death rate	
				per 1,000 live births	= 41.8
				Influenza	3
				Tuberculosis	1
					31.6
					43.

Comparative figures for
(a) North Dorset (b) England & Wales.
15.8 19.1

N. F. Pearson.

Medical Officer of Health.



4. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Good progress was made during the year with regard to the Council's post-war Sewerage Scheme.

Schemes for Stalbridge, Child Okeford, Shillingstone and Sturminster Newton were approved by the Ministry of Health.

Public local enquiries were held in respect to schemes for Marnhull and Hinton St. Mary and for Okeford Fitzpaine.

Schemes for Stourton Caundle, Clanvilles Wootton and Mappowder have been proposed.

The first stage of the scheme for Hazelbury Bryan was almost completed, and the Council estate of 24 houses connected thereto.

Cess Pool Emptying.

This service is not at present undertaken by the Council. It will, however, probably be necessary for the Council to consider this matter in respect to areas not covered by the sewage schemes, when the majority of these schemes have been carried out.

5. Public Refuse Collection and Disposal.

No changes have been made calling for report.

6. FACTORY EFFLUENTS AND RIVERS & STREAMS POLLUTION.

Milk Factories.

Further progress has been made with the owners of Milk Factories at Sturminster Newton and Shillingstone regarding the reception of trade wastes into the Council's Sewage Disposal Schemes.

Saw Mills - Stalbridge.

Messrs. Turner Bros. have given an undertaking to substitute their gas producer plant with grid electric power as soon as machinery is available with a view to abating the nuisance caused by gas produced waste flowing into the adjoining water course.

7. HOUSING.

EXISTING DWELLINGS.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total no. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)	1671
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	2135
(2) (a) No. of dwelling houses (included under (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	264
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	300
(3) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	305
(4) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those ref. to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	928

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:-

No. of defective dwelling houses repaired in consequence of informal action by the L.A. or their officers

(a) general repairs	77
(b) drainage	18

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2

(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners	1
(b) By L.A. in default of owners	1

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 9

(2) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made Nil

(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit Nil

The disparity between the number of houses inspected and found to have defects, and action taken in respect to them is accounted for by the fact that the majority of these inspections were carried out in the course of the Housing Survey. It would have been impossible to make progress with the Survey, and at the same time deal with all defects found -- even had labour and materials been available for this purpose. Defects of only the most urgent nature could be dealt with during the year under review.

Whilst the provision of new houses is of paramount importance, seven years during which routine inspection and action in respect to the repair of defective property has been impossible, means that many houses are in such a defective condition that, unless materials and labour can be made available for their repair and maintenance, they will inevitably become only fit for demolition or, at the best, extensive reconditioning at uneconomic cost.

Overcrowding.

Only two outstanding cases of 'Statutory Overcrowding' were known to exist at the end of the year. The Statutory standards of overcrowding under the Housing Act, 1936 is, however, so low as to be completely inadequate except for the purpose of identifying the worst cases of overcrowding.

It must be presumed that the allotment under the Act of so many square feet of floor space per person has one purpose, at least, as its object. That is, to reduce the chances of airborne or droplet infection. As children, more than adults, are prone to such infection, it is inconceivable why, under the Act, a child under ten is only allowed half the space of an adult, and a child under one year of age, no space at all.

It is true that little 'Statutory Overcrowding' exists in your district, now that your new housing programme had made such headway. Lesser degrees of overcrowding, however, still exist.

Requisitioned Premises, etc.

- 19 - Properties were held by the Council at the end of the year for use by Evacuees.
- 71 - Properties were held under requisition for housing the inadequately housed.
- 4 - Houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made were occupied under licence by you.

Housing Survey.

The preliminary survey of the district was completed during the year, the results being as follows:-

No. of houses found to be fit or requiring only minor repairs	1,115
No. of houses found to require extensive repair	615
No. of houses suitable for reconditioning	313
No. of houses found to be fit only for demolition	305
No. of houses in whose case categorisation was deferred until after detailed inspection	116
Total number of houses surveyed	2,464

The general picture presented by the Survey therefore is that approximately 50% of the houses in the area are fit or require only minor repairs, 25% require extensive repair, but repair which can be carried out at an economic cost. The remaining 25% or one quarter of all houses cannot be made fit at economic cost, and, of these, one half are only fit for demolition.

New Houses.

Excellent progress was made by you in the provision of new houses. The number of houses completed during the year was as follows:-

Temporary prefabricated Bungalows	35
Swedish Timber Houses	14
Traditional type of house	34

At the end of the year the number of applications outstanding for houses were 435 of these 383 were from persons resident in the district, and 82 were from persons outside the district.

Allocation of Houses.

I am satisfied that under the policy adopted by you for the allocation of houses adequate consideration is given to applicants living under insanitary or overcrowded conditions, and to those who require re-housing on other medical grounds.

Population.

I have not previously drawn your attention to the changing structure of the population of the Country. Whilst the expectation of life has steadily increased the birth rate has steadily fallen. The result is, that although the population of the Country is still increasing it is doing so chiefly on account of a larger number of persons reaching an advanced age. Whilst in 1900 there were less than 2 million persons over 65 years of age, it is estimated that by 1951 there will be over 5½ million persons over 65 years of age. The implications of such a change in the structure of the population is of grave economic consequence, but I bring the matter to your particular notice to emphasise the need for adequate provision being made for the proper care and housing of elderly persons who by reason of age or infirmity cannot look after themselves.

Whilst the care of such persons is not directly your responsibility, a local Housing Authority can do much to assist and make happier the life of aged persons, by the provision of suitable accommodation designed to meet their particular needs. I am therefore pleased to know that you are making special provision for such persons in your Housing Programme.

8. NO. OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

(1)		
	Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	3,094
	Total No. of Informal Notices served	99
	Total No. of Informal Notices complied with	95
	Total No. of Statutory Notices served	1
	Total No. of Statutory Notices complied with	1

(2)	No. of inspections carried out during the year under:-	
-----	--	--

(a)	Factories Act	84
(b)	Shops Act	61

(3)	No. of Sanitary Inspections of Schools -	
-----	--	--

C. of E. School, Child Okeford. Instructions given regarding proper methods of conservancy and disposal.

9. INSPECTION OF FOOD AND SUPERVISION OF MILK SUPPLIES.

(a)	No. of persons on Register at the end of 1946	347
	No. of dairy farms and other dairy premises on register at the end of 1946	355
	No. of dairy farms inspected during 1946	240
	No. of inspections	360
	No. of Notices served	52
	No. of Notices complied with	50
	No. of Milkshops inspected during 1946	4
	No. of inspections	20
	No. of Notices served	Nil
	No. complied with	Nil

(b) Meat and other Foods.

No. of post mortem inspections	86
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Other Foods.

Tins of food condemned (batches)	20
Meat in butchers shops	120 lbs.
Bacon	33 lbs.
Butter	38 lbs.
Margarine	192 lbs.
Macaroni	25 lbs.
Prunes	150 lbs.
Fish	20 stone fillets & 9 box
Grapefruit	50½ lbs.

Number of inspections carried out at:-

(a) Premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream or prepared meals, etc.	36
(b) Food premises (otherwise subject to the Food and Drugs Act, 1938)	56
(c) No. of Notices served	2
(d) No. of Notices complied with	2

Food Handlers.

Outbreaks of disease due to bacterial contamination of food during preparation or sale are by no means uncommon. Only those of general public interest reach the public press.

You have been free of any such outbreak in your district, and the above figures show that routine inspection of registered premises have been carried out. Nevertheless, I can feel no confidence that the population is safeguarded against infection from food, ice-cream, etc., when the generally accepted standard of hygiene amongst food handlers throughout the country is so low.

The standard laid down in Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 are inadequate and do not apply to all premises. No provision is made for adequate wrapping of foodstuffs and it is regretted that the new draft regulations, with regard to the manufacture of ice-cream do not call for proper sterilisation of utensils used, or lay down a bacterial standard of purity.

10. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Lobar Pneumonia	2	-	-
Measles	10	-	-
Scarlet Fever	10	9	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-

Infective catarrhal jaundice was unduly prevalent in the Shillingstone area during the latter quarter of the year. The type of attack was mild and there were no deaths.

The end of the year saw the closing of the North Dorset Joint Hospital Board's temporary Isolation Hospital at Vine House, Sturminster Newton. Provided that beds are available, cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment will, in future, be admitted to hospitals under the control of surrounding authorities at South Petherton, Poole or Salisbury. The closing of the local Isolation Hospital means that some cases of infectious disease which normally would be admitted to hospital will have to remain at home. This will be particularly so when infectious disease is epidemic and there is an increased demand for beds from authorities already having prior claim on the hospitals referred to.

11. TUBERCULOSIS. - Cases notified.

<u>New Cases.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
5	1	-	-

12. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

A Special Report on the subject was presented early in the current year.

Total number of children who completed course of treatment during the year	<u>Under 5.</u> 102	<u>Over 5.</u> 17
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31st March, 1947.

N.F. Pearson.
Medical Officer of Health.

